

## MINUTES

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
John A. Hannah Building  
608 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan

June 17, 2014  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Mr. Daniel Varner, Secretary  
Dr. Richard Zeile, Treasurer  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, NASBE Delegate  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Mr. Craig Ruff, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan showed a video of his granddaughter. Mr. Flanagan said he looks forward to her entry into kindergarten in a Michigan public school in the fall. He said there are many great public school teachers.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Adoption of Resolution Honoring the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year
- B. Adoption of Resolution Honoring the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda as follows:**

- A. adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated June 4, 2014, honoring the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year; and**
- B. adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated June 4, 2014, honoring the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

A resolution honoring the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year, Gary G. Abud, Jr., is attached as Exhibit A.

A resolution honoring the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year, Melody Arabo, is attached as Exhibit B.

VI. PRESENTATION ON MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., presented his final report as the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year. He shared a video presentation highlighting his activities during the past year while serving as the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Abud said serving as the Michigan Teacher of the Year was the springboard of a lifetime for an amazing opportunity that he did not foresee. He thanked Superintendent Flanagan, State Board of Education members, Department staff, his wife, and Michigan teachers. He said he has been honored to represent Michigan teachers who share a common mission to elevate the profession and advance the work of teaching, leading and learning.

Mr. Austin presented Mr. Abud with a resolution honoring him as the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year. He said Mr. Abud was a terrific ambassador for educators in Michigan by supporting his peers and improving educational practices. Mr. Austin said it is wonderful that Grosse Pointe Public School System has supported that role.

VII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS – 2014-2015 MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND STATE-LEVEL FINALISTS

Mr. Flanagan said on May 15, 2014, he made a surprise announcement at Keith Elementary School in West Bloomfield naming Mrs. Melody Arabo, as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year. He said Mrs. Arabo is known for her scholarly ability, dedication, determination, maturity and child-centered passion. He said Mrs. Arabo has a great support system, and many family members were present at the announcement.

Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation, presented the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year and State Level Finalists. Ms. Forward showed a video of the surprise announcement; and she introduced Mrs. Arabo, a third grade teacher in the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, and her guests. Ms. Forward said there were 238 applications, and Ms. Ramos-Montigny served on the selection committee that interviewed the three finalists.

Mrs. Arabo said she is thankful for the honor to be a voice for all of the outstanding teachers in Michigan. She said she will not take her responsibility lightly and will cherish the opportunity. She thanked Superintendent Flanagan, the State Board of Education, her local Superintendent and Principal, and family members. She said she looks forward to working with everyone during the upcoming year.

Ms. Forward introduced the state finalists Mrs. Melanie Dever, mathematics and science teacher at Mill Creek Middle School, Dexter Community Schools; and Mrs. Kathryn Wejrowski, media and English teacher at Swan Valley High School, Swan Valley School District. Ms. Forward also introduced the guests of Mrs. Dever, and Mrs. Wejrowski.

Ms. Forward said Meemic Insurance has been a sponsor of the Michigan Teacher of the Year Program for the past several years. Ms. Forward said Meemic Insurance provides a monetary award of \$1,000 to be used for the advancement of education in Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, as well as monetary awards to the schools where the two state finalists teach. Ms. Forward said Mrs. Arabo will have the use of a vehicle during her tenure as Michigan Teacher of the Year courtesy of Meemic Insurance. Ms. Forward thanked Ms. Pam Harlin, Meemic Insurance representative, who was unable to attend the Board meeting.

Mr. Varner presented Mrs. Arabo with a sculpture; Mrs. Weiser presented her with a lapel pin; and Dr. Ulbrich presented her with a resolution honoring her as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Flanagan presented Ken Gutman, Superintendent, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools; and Phillip Pittman, Principal, Keith Elementary School; with a plaque to display in the school commemorating Melody Arabo as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Straus presented Mrs. Dever with a certificate; and Ms. Ramos-Montigny presented her with a lapel pin.

Dr. Zeile presented Mrs. Wejrowski with a certificate; and Ms. Fecteau presented her with a lapel pin.

#### VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

#### IX. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

#### X. DISCUSSION ON MICHIGAN SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

Dr. Vickie Markavitch, Superintendent, Oakland Schools; Mr. John Bebow, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Amber DeLind, Outreach Director, The Center for Michigan; and Ms. Deb Mexicotte, Board President, Ms. Christine Stead, Board Vice President, Dr. Jeanice Kerr Swift, Superintendent, and Mr. Marios Demetriou, Chief Financial Officer, Ann Arbor Public Schools; presented Discussion on Michigan School Organization and Finance.

Mr. Austin introduced the presenters noting that there will be three presentations in the continuing series of board meeting discussions on school organization and finance. He said there will be no questions, in order to maximize time.

Dr. Markavitch shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#). She distributed her statement, "Redesigning the Organization and Financing of Michigan Schools," and "System on the Move: Story of the Ontario Education Strategy."

Mr. Ruff joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Mr. Bebow and Ms. DeLind shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#). They distributed "Michigan Speaks – The Citizens' Agenda for the 2014 Elections."

Ms. Mexicotte, Ms. Stead, Dr. Kerr Swift and Mr. Marios shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#). They distributed, "District Disruption and Revival – School Systems Reshape to Compete and Improve" from Education Week Research Center.

#### XI. PRESENTATION ON THE REVISED MODEL CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Mr. Kyle Guarrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Support Services, presented the Revised Model Code of Student Conduct.

Mr. Flanagan said the Model Code of Student Conduct is a revision of a document that was last developed in 2001. He said Ms. Fecteau and Mrs. Straus served on the Michigan Task Force on School Discipline that was convened to assist in the revisions to the document that is being presented today.

Mr. Guarrant said the Model Code of Student Conduct aligns with the Policy on Reducing Student Suspensions and Expulsions that was approved by the Board in May.

Information was provided via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included professional development opportunities, regional meetings of local law enforcement and educators, productive debate of task force resulting in a good document, data regarding suspension rates of young black men and special education students, class size, experience level of teachers, school cultures improved by restorative justice, legislative changes, applicable grant funding, allowing credit for work completed during suspension, mandate for collection of expulsion (not suspension) data in Michigan, suspension data included in truancy legislation, sharing data with discretion and balance, cultural competency in educator preparation agencies, connection between behavior and academic achievement, and clarification of grades and their meaning.

Following a period of public comment, the Model Code of Student Conduct will return to the Board for approval in August.

#### XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Mr. Ruff left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Mr. Flanagan said the Board is reserving time for public comment regarding the State Superintendent Search during the June and August meetings. He said there are also opportunities for the public to comment through the State Board of Education website – [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe); Facebook – Michigan State Superintendent Search; and electronic mail – [StateSuptSearch@michigan.gov](mailto:StateSuptSearch@michigan.gov).

Mr. Brad Wilson, instructional technology coordinator, Jackson County Intermediate School District, presented #TeamJXN's Connected Classrooms. The following three groups of students and teachers were represented: "Sharing our Story," 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom, Parma Elementary School, Western School District; "Connecting with Professionals Around the Country," high school marketing class, Jackson Area Career Center; and "We Skype. What's Your Superpower?" 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, Keicher Elementary School, Michigan Center School District.

### **XIV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN**

At the request of Mr. Flanagan, new employees were introduced.

Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Support Services, introduced Eileen Zimmerman, a new employee in the Library of Michigan. He welcomed Mr. Randy Riley, Library of Michigan employee, who has been promoted to State Librarian. Mr. Guerrant congratulated Ms. Marla Moss on her promotion to Director of School Support Services.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Dana Hughes and Nicole Rogers, Career and Technical Education; and Chris Sadler, Special Education.

Dr. Joseph Martineau, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, introduced, Suzanne Hindman, Standards and Assessment.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Great Start, introduced Jessica Gillard, Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.

### **XV. RECESS**

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:27 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### **XVI. PRESENTATION ON ACHIEVEMENT GAP POLICY BRIEF**

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Shannon Stackhouse Flores, Education Research Consultant, Harvard Strategic Data Project Fellow; presented the Achievement Gap Policy Brief.

Mr. Flanagan said the Achievement Gap Policy Brief – Quantifying the Achievement Gap will provide baseline data from 2013 on the achievement of African American students in Michigan.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included student achievement and aptitude scores, reaching an understanding in order to move from demoralization on a pathway of hope toward a solution, the current phase of intervention followed by analysis, the relationship between lead levels and Michigan Educational Assessment Program scores, fully examining all possible causes to reach a solution, the importance of caring adults in the lives of students, the importance of mental health, Beating the Odds Schools, principal leadership, Department research agenda capacity and funding, and acknowledgement of the condition focusing on data that can be used to drive change rather than be punitive.

### **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:37 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **XVIII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

There was Board consensus to reorder the agenda.

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, and Ms. Wendy Larvick, Assistant Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the State Board of Education Legislative Committee met on June 9 and the Board will be asked to take action on proposed statements.

He said the Legislature passed Senate Bill 817 that would delay the implementation of the educator evaluation requirement until the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Ackley said the Legislature passed a package of bills amending the Michigan Merit Curriculum with changes focused on career and technical education.

Mr. Ackley said the Legislature passed the budget bill including language that would require the Department to prepare a new Michigan Educational Assessment Program test and in September reissue a request for proposals for assessments in subsequent years.

Dr. Ulbrich, Chair of the Board's Legislative Committee, said there are four short statements that the Board is being asked to consider. Dr. Ulbrich led the discussion, and distributed draft statements for consideration.

Reading Legislation (House Bills 5111 and 5144)

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the following statement:**

**Members of the State Board of Education respect the intent of House Bills 5111 and 5144, and agree with the Legislature's urgency to accelerate 3rd grade reading success. However, the Board is neutral on the bills as written.**

**We believe that every child can learn, and support the goal of 3rd grade literacy. But too many schools retain students without better teaching, and the legislation suggests – rather than requires – improved classroom instruction. Being held back with little hope of learning can damage young learners and lacks educational purpose.**

Mrs. Weiser said retaining children without the promise of different instruction is lacking. There was Board consensus to replace the phrase "better teaching" with "a more effective approach."

Mr. Austin and Mrs. Straus said they agree with Mrs. Weiser.

Dr. Zeile said mastery of reading could be a developmental issue.

Ms. Fecteau asked why the Board is being asked to take a neutral stance rather than opposing the legislation. She said she opposes retention.

Mr. Varner said the Board supports the goal of third grade reading success.

Following discussion, the vote was taken on the motion as modified.



**Ayes: Austin, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner,  
Weiser, Zeile  
Abstain: Fecteau**

**The motion carried.**

The State Board of Education Statement on House Bills 5111 and 5144 is attached as Exhibit C.

Concurrent Enrollment Legislation (Senate Bills 745-747)

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the following statement:**

**The State Board of Education supports providing college-level experience to high school students. Concurrent Enrollment options, such as the partnership between Rockford and Ferris State University, already exist in Michigan, and are being used successfully. While the State Board of Education supports the concept contained within this legislation, we believe the Legislation is unnecessary given the already-existing ability to create such partnerships.**

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board supports the concept, but since options for concurrent enrollment partnerships currently exist, the legislation may be unnecessary. She said the legislation may have been drafted to support a grant, and is now unnecessary.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny read an e-mail she received from a staff member from Rockford Schools.

Following discussion, there was Board consensus to remain silent on the issue.

**Dr. Ulbrich withdrew her motion and Dr. Zeile withdrew his support.**

Educator and Administrator Evaluations (Senate Bill 817)

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education approve the following statement:**

**The State Board of Education supports the passage of Senate Bill 817, which delay the implementation of performance evaluations until the 2015-16 school year.**

**The State Board of Education believes that a delay is needed to ensure that the state has successfully implemented an appropriate student assessment that allows for accurate measurements of student growth.**

Discussion regarding modifications to the statement followed.

The vote was taken on the motion, as modified by discussion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The State Board of Education Statement on Educator and Administrator Evaluations is attached as Exhibit D.

State Board of Education to Regional Elections (House Joint Resolution GG)

**Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the following statement:**

**The State Board of Education (SBE) opposes House Joint Resolution GG, which would amend the State Constitution to require that the SBE would be elected by single-member districts, rather than statewide. Electing members of the State Board of Education on a statewide basis ensures that members focus on the best interest of all students in the State of Michigan.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The State Board of Education Statement on House Joint Resolution GG is attached as Exhibit E.

Dr. Ulbrich left the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Ms. Fecteau said she has questions regarding changes to the special education rules. Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Ms. Teri Johnson, Assistant Director, Special Education; and Ms. Nancy Rotarius, State Policy Coordinator, Special Education; came to the Board table to address Ms. Fecteau's questions.

Mrs. Weiser left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

**XIX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

- G. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 13, 2014
- H. Approval of Record of State Board of Education Retreat of June 3, 2014

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 13, 2014, and Record of the State Board of Education Retreat of June 3, 2014.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus,  
Varner, Zeile  
Absent: Ulbrich, Weiser**

**The motion carried.**

XX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said the Board is eager to receive stakeholder input on the State Superintendent Search. He said the Board had a productive retreat on June 3, 2014. He thanked Ms. Fecteau for joining him at the June meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee; and thanked Mrs. Weiser for joining him at the music educators policy conference. Mr. Austin also thanked Mr. Abud for serving as the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- I. Human Resources Report
- J. Report on Approval of Request to Change Name of Henry Ford Community College to Henry Ford College

Grants

- K. Report on Grant Awards
  - 1. 2013-2014 Michigan Charter School Grant Program – Amendment
  - 2. 2013-2014 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Amendment (1)
  - 3. 2013-2014 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Amendment (2)
  - 4. 2013-2014 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Amendment (3)
  - 5. 2013-2014 Title I, Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant – Amendment
  - 6. 2012-2013 Title III, Part A, Immigrant Program – Amendment

7. 2013-2014 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs– Amendment
8. 2013-2014 Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting – Amendment
9. 2013-2014 Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition Program – Amendment
10. 2013-2014 Title III, Part A, Immigrant Students Program – Amendment

Mr. Flanagan said in order to inform selection criteria for the next State Superintendent, it is important that people have an accurate idea of the work a State Superintendent does, and he provided a review of his activities during the previous month.

XXII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION AND PRIORITIES FOR 2013-2015

Mr. Flanagan said at the State Board of Education Retreat on June 3, 2014, the 2013 through 2015 Mission and Priorities of the State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education were discussed. He said they are two-year priorities, from 2013-2015, and the first year has just been completed.

Mr. Flanagan said the Deputy Superintendents will provide an update, and the Board is being asked to approve the State Board of Education Mission and Priorities to include a revision, as discussed at the retreat.

Deputy Superintendents Susan Broman, Office of Great Start; Kyle Guerrant, Administration and School Support; Venessa Keesler, Education Services; and Joseph Martineau, Accountability Services; shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included highly effective teachers, resources focused on priority schools, Great Start to Quality participation, and detecting lead levels in children.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the State Board of Education Mission and Priorities for 2013-2015, as attached to the President’s memorandum dated June 11, 2014.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Varner, Zeile**  
**Absent: Ulbrich, Weiser**

**The motion carried.**

The State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Mission and Priorities for 2013-2015 are attached as Exhibit F.

XXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

There were no comments by State Board of Education members.

XXIV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich, and Mr. Varner with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, August 12, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, September 9, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, October 14, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, November 18, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- E. Tuesday, December 16, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Varner  
Secretary

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION

**Gary G. Abud, Jr.**

2013-2014 MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Gary G. Abud, Jr., received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from Wayne State University and a Master's of Arts in Teaching from Saginaw Valley State University; and

WHEREAS, Gary G. Abud, Jr., has been a science teacher for four years at Grosse Pointe High School; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education honored Gary G. Abud, Jr., as the 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Gary G. Abud, Jr., has shared his passion for innovative professional development through professional learning networks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abud, Jr., has shared his enthusiasm for providing authentic project-based learning experiences for students as the Michigan Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abud, Jr., has recognized the importance of students as digitally responsive and collaborative citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gary G. Abud, Jr., has served as 2012 Michigan Science Teacher of Promise of the Michigan Science Teachers Association, the 2009 Toyota Tapestry Award recipient from the National Science Teachers Association, and has received the Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Education Award from the Network of Michigan Educators; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has continually supported teachers with several quality initiatives, including the Michigan Teacher of the Year Program and the Milken National Educator Award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Gary G. Abud, Jr., and the thousands of educators in the great State of Michigan for their outstanding work; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education supports all efforts, training, and resources available to our state's educators so that they may continue to educate and positively influence the children of today as they become the leaders of tomorrow.

Adopted June 17, 2014

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION

**Melody Arabo**

2014-2015 MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, throughout Michigan and across the country, teachers open children's minds to the magic of ideas, knowledge, and dreams; and

WHEREAS, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship and their hard work and efforts are directly responsible for creating the leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, teachers fill many roles as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators, and mentors; and

WHEREAS, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has continually supported teachers with several quality initiatives, including the Michigan Teacher of the Year program and the Milken National Educator Award; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education have named Melody Arabo, teacher at Keith Elementary School, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, with twelve years of teaching experience, as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Melody Arabo and the thousands of educators around the great State of Michigan for their outstanding work; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education supports all efforts, training, and resources available to our state's educators so that they may continue to educate and positively influence the children of today as they become the leaders of tomorrow.

Adopted June 17, 2014

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT  
ON HOUSE BILLS 5111 AND 5144**

Members of the State Board of Education respect the intent of House Bills 5111 and 5144, and agree with the Legislature's urgency to accelerate 3rd grade reading success. However, the Board is neutral on the bills as written.

We believe that every child can learn, and support the goal of 3rd grade literacy. But too many schools retain students without a more effective approach, and the legislation suggests – rather than requires – improved classroom instruction. Being held back with little hope of learning can damage young learners and lacks educational purpose.

Adopted June 17, 2014



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT  
ON EDUCATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATIONS**

The State Board of Education (SBE) strongly supports implementation of the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness recommendations. The SBE supports delaying the implementation of the mandated performance evaluations based on new student growth until the 2015-16 school year.

The SBE believes that a delay is needed to ensure that the state has successfully implemented an appropriate student assessment that allows for accurate measurement of student growth.

Adopted June 17, 2014

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT  
ON HJR GG**

The State Board of Education (SBE) opposes House Joint Resolution GG, which would amend the State Constitution to require that the SBE would be elected by single-member districts, rather than statewide. Electing members of the State Board of Education on a statewide basis ensures that members focus on the best interest of all students in the State of Michigan.

Adopted June 17, 2014

**MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MISSION AND PRIORITIES  
2013-2015**

***MISSION: All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community.***

**PRIORITY 1:** Lead in developing a vision and comprehensive plan for redesigning Michigan school organization and finance that supports attainment of robust learning standards, necessary skills, and good outcomes for all students; and that provides the requisite, predictable and fairly delivered public funding to reasonably achieve these goals.

**PRIORITY 2:** Advocate for and impact policies and legislation that address preK-12 education issues, including but not limited to, educator evaluations, Common Core Standards and Assessments, Michigan science standards, low performing schools, early learning, special education services, schools in deficit, teacher preparation, English as a second language, migrant education, and curriculum. Where possible, the Michigan Department of Education will propose alternatives to current laws that unnecessarily restrict school function, better practices for students, or executive of K-12 best practices.

Adopted June 17, 2014

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
MISSION AND PRIORITIES  
2013-15**

***MISSION: All students graduate ready for careers, college,  
and community.***

**PRIORITY 1:** Close achievement gaps in reading and math, with an initial focus on African-American young men for whom data show are Michigan's persistently lowest achieving student group.

**PRIORITY 2:** Increase the number of children in appropriate high quality early learning and development programs.

**PRIORITY 3:** Increase the number of children who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

**PRIORITY 4:** Increase the use of personalized teaching methods, including the integration of technology for K-14 grade students to improve learning and outcomes.

**PRIORITY 5:** Implement policies and activities to drive quality improvement and accountability in Educator Preparation Institution (EPI) programs.

**PRIORITY 6:** Reduce health and safety barriers to learning.

**PRIORITY 7:** Promote financial health and stability for public schools.

Adopted June 17, 2014